Increase in Poverty

†1224. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new economic policies and rapid globalization have affected the rural areas and as a result poverty has increased further;

(b) if so, the detailf thereof;

(c) whether it has directly affected the rural industries; and

(d) whether due to this the percentage of poverty has increased in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Since the latest reliable estimates of poverty are available only for the year 1993-94 based on large Sample of the 50th Round of the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure, it is not possible to realistically assess the impact of the new economic policies and rapid globalization on poverty situation However, there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the new economic policies and rapid globalization have contributed to increase in rural poverty.

(c) and (d) There is no evidence to suggest that rural industries have been adversely affected by the new economic policies.

Special funds for construction of roads in Bihar

†1225. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide any Central funds to the State Government for the centrally sponsored schemes in pursuance of the recommendations of Ramanathan Committee

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide any special Central funds, for construction of roads in terrorism infected areas of the central Bihar;

(c) if so, by when; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Ramanathan Committee has not been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) to (d) National Rural Roads Programme is currently being formulated to provide rural connectivity in the country. Central funds are proposed to be provided to construct All-weather roads to the unconnected village including those with special problems.

Creation of employment opportunities in Tamil Nadu

1226. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is a part of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for which Government are giving assistance.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the target fixed for creating employment opportunities for rural areas and landless persons in Tamil Nadu during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was a wage-employment programme which has been restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.e.f. Ist April 1999. The main objective of the restructured programme is to create need based rural infrastructure at the village level. The target fixed for creation of wage-employment and achievement thereon under the erstwhile JRY from 1995-96 to 1998-99 in respect of Tamil Nadu are given below. No target for employment generation is fixed under JGSY as the main thrust of the scheme is creation of rural infrastructure.